

stylistic idiosyncracies in the ordinary way, yet here they have combined to produce a text of uniform excellence. This, of course, indicates editorial expertise of a high order.

Naturally the expert in a particular field will find matters of detail to criticize—this is inevitable in a comprehensive textbook. For example (p. 82) osteoblasts are said to increase by mitotic activity. They don't. Osteoblasts are always recruited from neighbouring undifferentiated cells: the latter alone have the ability to divide. But this is a small point so far as the general anatomist is concerned, albeit a very basic one for a worker in the field of bone biology.

An attractive and useful feature of the book is the way structure and function, and structure and clinical or pathological significance, are integrated in the text. Because of this the reader cannot fail to realize that modern Human Anatomy is not simply a catalogue of visual data about the body, but the very canvas on which his medical knowledge is tapestried.

Buying the new Big Cunningham for the student would be £9.00 well spent. Anatomy, like all scientific disciplines, evolves new facts and concepts as the years go by: nevertheless the medical man who owns this book will have an accurate, useful and friendly guide to one of the major scientific bases of his craft for many years to come. J.J.P.

**THROMBOEMBOLISM: Diagnosis and Treatment.** Edited by V. V. Kakkar, F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.S., and A. J. Jouhar, M.B., M.R.C.S. (Pp. xii+241; illustrated £3.50). Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1972.

THIS small book enables everyone interested in the field of thromboembolism to benefit from a large volume of information and experience presented at a symposium held in Kings College Hospital in 1971. The principles underlying thromboembolic disease, its diagnosis, prevention, medical and surgical treatment are discussed. The initial chapter presents the problem against a brief historical background, and stresses the lack of any predictive laboratory test for the detection of insipient thrombosis. A valuable, comprehensive updated bibliography is included. Subsequently the theory of hypercoagulability, and its role in thromboembolism is presented in a lucid and philosophical manner. New concepts are then presented in a thought provoking chapter by Fletcher et al. However, some background knowledge of laboratory techniques would aid interpretation and understanding of this section.

The problems of the diagnosis of venous thromboembolism are well presented, the Doppler technique, radiological and isotope methods are discussed. The  $^{125}\text{I}$  Fibrinogen test for the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis is given pride of place, and it is left to the participants in the general discussion to reveal its limitations.

The study of Rheology has made an important contribution to the understanding of the aetiology of thromboembolism. This aspect is highlighted in a chapter, which presents the results of a collaborative study carried out by a surgeon and a bio-medical engineer into the changes in venous blood flow, before, during and after surgery. The follow up to this is a discussion of the methods for prevention of post-operative deep vein thrombosis. This section is of considerable practical value.

The final two parts are devoted to the medical and surgical treatment of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. The pros and cons of thrombolytic therapy, oral, intravenous anticoagulant therapy and embolectomy are presented. The indications for each are discussed and the results of several clinical trials are included. The physician, the surgeon and the coagulationist will all find something to interest and stimulate them in this volume. E.M.

**INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL MEDICINE.** By R. R. H. Lovell, M.D., F.R.C.P. and A. C. Doyle, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. ix+178. £1.70). Melbourne University Press (agents: International Scholarly Book Services, London), 1971.

THE ability to take an adequate history and carry out the physical examination of a patient is a basic skill which should be taught in detail from the earliest moment of a student's